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CSCI77800-Ethics

on All of Us & Privacy

Technology has rapidly outpaced governing bodies, and seems to be accelerating. How does the typical digital citizen navigate the new reality?

The inalienable rights of a digital citizen are equal access, privacy, and the ability to control one's data. Vint Cerf penned a letter about working toward and then ensuring that the Internet will be for everyone. This letter lists many scenarios in which inaction would result in inequalities in regard to access, use and privacy. Many of his points coincide with what I would refer to as "The inalienable rights of a digital citizen," which ideally would be protected for everyone on earth. One of his major points revolves around privacy. In order for the Internet to truly be for everyone, users must be able to protect their privacy and confidentiality. Both encryption of transactions and stored data are key for security and to protect information from poaching third parties, but there needs to be more protections for end-users actively choosing and using apps and programs as well.

As we have been exploring privacy policies in this class, the idea of the "cost of free" has continued to bubble to the surface. What we give away to access and use software, both paid and free in regard to currency, ultimately are not free in the way in which our data is shared, targeted and sold. There are benefits of this, but there are also many pitfalls embedded deep within this relationship. *I believe that one of the major inalienable rights is that one should be able to delete and remove old data. This should be more of a partnership between the end-user and the software company, as opposed to the norm which is that the end-user loses control of and give's away that data by using the vast majority of apps and software packages.

In reality the idea of sharing ownership of data and having the ability as the end user to remove old data is attainable. Through regulation of the tech industry and purposeful mandates restoring power and control to the end-user, this could come to pass.

Ultimately, the most important thing to teach K-12 students in regard to privacy is to verify and trust your sources and software. Be aware of what you are giving away and how it may be used. It may well be worth it, but just make sure you understand how your information will be used. (The Internet is public) – we should behave in ways online that we would be comfortable behaving out on the avenue.

Source: Code.org – The Internet is for Everyone, Vint Cerf, April 2002

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wk_gWNLafJHHgPKmWwasjKFZpVR5tHqxKY5M9ecbFC8/edit

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